



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

Room 110 Capitol Building \* P.O. Box 201711 \* Helena, MT 59620-1711 \* (406) 444-2986 \* FAX (406) 444-3036

Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
CLAYTON SCHENCK

DATE: November 21, 2005

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Pat Gervais, Senior Fiscal Analyst

RE: Prison Population (including secure care)

At its October meeting the Legislative Finance Committee received a report regarding the prison population (including secure care) and the potential supplemental appropriation that may be necessary in order to fund the increase in the population above that projected during the budgeting process. As of this writing, the Department of Corrections (DOC) has not revised its population estimates for fiscal years 2006 or 2007 and continues to use the estimates that were included in the October report to the LFC. Thus, there is no change to report in the potential supplemental for the department. Per the October report to the LFC this supplemental could be as high as \$8.7 million.

The various actions under consideration by DOC were presented to the Corrections Advisory Council at its meeting on November 16, 2005. Action on items under consideration such as movement of prisoners to out of state facilities and addition of beds to the private prison in Shelby was not taken by the Advisory Council. However, some discussion of these issues did occur. Director Slaughter indicated that the number of state prisoners in county jails was a driving factor and that possible triggers leading to placement of prisoners out of state might be the number of state prisoners in county jail reaching 250 – 300 or some type of incident occurring within the secure care system.

Development of alternate settings such as additional pre-release beds, a revocation center, and methamphetamine treatment unit continue. Some additional pre-release beds have been placed in service and others are under development. The department hopes to have the revocation center open in mid-December 2005 and the request for proposals (RFP) for methamphetamine treatment beds has been issued with the department planning to award contract(s) for these treatment beds in March, 2006. It is currently unknown how much time will be required to implement the methamphetamine treatment beds after the contract is awarded, but the department indicated it may take up to one year before the unit is operational. Thus, the methamphetamine treatment beds may not be operational until the end of the 2007 biennium.